

# **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**Nagaland University  
Hqrs.:Lumami**



## **Ph.D Syllabus**

**Approved 10/12/2024 (39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Academic Council)**

**AC:39:10:3**

## **SUMMARY OF SYLLABUS**

Total no of Papers : 04  
Total Marks : 400  
Duration : 6 months  
Total Credit : 16

Course No.	Course Title	Internal	External	Total Marks	Credit
SOC :401	Advanced Sociological Theories	20	80	100	4
SOC: 402	Social Research Methods	20	80	100	4
SOC: 403	Research and Publication Ethics	20	80	100	4
SOC: 404	Computer Application and Term Paper	20	80	100	4

- Pass mark for internal and external is 50% separately, *i.e* internal = 10, External=40. However overall aggregate pass mark is 55%
- In terms with Academic Council resolution No.AC: 18:15 (3), students must secure pass marks in both internal and external examinations separately. Student falling in internal examinations are not eligible to sit for external examinations.

**Course No.: SOC - 401**  
**ADVANCED SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES**

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to the key aspects of theories in sociology, focusing on the theoretical formulations, their features, key mechanisms for explanations, major disagreements in social theory, criticisms, and new synthesis and fresh attempts at theory building. This course is concerned with a major question of *how a social theory works* and how it *explains* social life, processes and events. The course is designed to equip students with knowledge in social theory and deconstructing theoretical frameworks to be able to operationalize sociological theories in their research.

**Course Objectives:**

- To train students in understanding the epistemological grounds of sociological theorization.
- To engage students in developing critical thinking on social theories and their explanation of empirical phenomena.
- To train students in identifying and locating gaps in sociological theories and the theorists' responses to them.
- To introduce the new attempts to theorization that addresses these limitations of classical theories and provide new explanations of social lives.

**Course Outcomes:**

1. Students will be able to develop an advanced understanding of the main theoretical developments in sociology
2. A better clarity of the role of mechanisms in sociological theorizing
3. A nuanced ability to examine the epistemic grounds of different theories and their differential articulations
4. A developed skill to analyze the key aspects of operationalizing social theory in empirical research.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Unit I: Classical Foundations of Social Theory**

- a) Modernity, Capitalism and Contradictions: Marx
- b) Rationality and Empirical Science of Understanding: Weber
- c) Institutions, Community Bonds and Individualism: Durkheim
- d) Self, Psyche and Group Mind: Freud

### **Unit II: Frankfurt School and Structuralism**

- a) Adorno and Dialectics of Enlightenment
- b) Marcuse and One Dimensional Man
- c) Habermas and Critical theory
- d) Levi Strauss and Structuralist Theory

### **Unit III Recent Debates & Critiques in Sociological Theories**

- a) Rational Actor and Choice Theory
- b) Gender Fluidity, Performativity and Identity
- c) Consumerism, and hyper reality
- d) Intersectionality Theory and Locating the Subject

### **Unit IV: Feminist, Constructionist, Postmodernist Theorizations**

- a) Feminist Sociology & Engendering Social theory
- b) Constructionist Theory of Society
- c) Biopolitics, Knowledge and Governmentality
- d) Postmodern Social theory

### **Unit V: Contemporary Trends in Social Theory**

- a) Post colonial theory
- b) Network Theory
- c) Southern Theory
- d) Digital Social Theory

## Suggested Readings

- Alexander, Jeffrey C. 1987. *Twenty Lectures: Sociological Theory Since World War II*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Arthur Stinchcombe. 1968. *Constructing Social Theories*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 80-101.
- Axel Honneth. 2017. 'Frankfurt School and Social theory', in *The Habermas Handbook*, Edited by: Hauke Brunkhorst, Regina Kreide and Cristina Lafont. Columbia University Press.
- Barbara L. Marshall and Anne Witz (eds.) 2004. *Engendering the social: Feminist encounters with sociological theory*. Open University Press.
- Bauman, Z 2007. *Consuming life*, Polity press
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- Butler, J. 1990. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the subversion of Identity*. Routledge
- Crenshaw, K. 2017. *On Intersectionality: Essential Writings*. The New Press
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- Go, Julian. 2016. *Postcolonial Thought and Social Theory*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Goffman, Erving. 2011. "The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life." Pp. 46-62 in *Contemporary Sociological Theory*, edited by C. Calhoun, et al. NJ: Wiley.
- Goran Therborn. 2019. The Frankfurt School, In *Foundations of the Frankfurt School of Social Research* Edited by Judith Marcus and Zoltán Tar, (pp.343-373), London: Routledge.
- Hon Fai Chen. 2022. 'Social Theory and the History of Sociology', in *The Palgrave Handbook of the History of Human Sciences*, Reference work entry.  
[https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-981-16-7255-2\\_65?fromPaywallRec=true](https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-981-16-7255-2_65?fromPaywallRec=true)
- James S. Coleman. 1990. *Foundations of Social Theory*, Chapter 1. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Joas, Hans and Wolfgang Knöbl 2009. "What is Theory?" in *Social Theory: Twenty Introductory Lectures*. Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press (pp. 1-19).
- John W. Meyer and Ronald L. Jepperson. 2000. "The 'Actors' of Modern Society: The Cultural Construction of Social Agency." *Sociological Theory* 18: 100-120.
- Judith Marcus and Zoltán Tar. 2019. *Foundations of the Frankfurt School of Social Research*. London: Routledge.
- Kellner, Douglas. 1988. "Postmodernism as Social Theory: Some Challenges and Problems," *Theory, Culture and Society* 5(2-3), 239- 269.
- Lynch, M. 1998. "Towards a Constructivist Genealogy of Social Constructivism," in I. Velody and R. Williams (eds.), *The Politics of Constructionism*. London: Sage.
- Martin, John Levi. 2015. "On Theory in Sociology," in *Thinking Through Theory*. New York; London: W.W. Norton. (pp.1 – 44).

- Peter Hedström and Richard Swedberg. 1998. "Social Mechanisms: An Introductory Essay." Pp.1-31 in *Social Mechanisms*, edited by Peter Hedström and Richard Swedberg. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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- Walby, S. 2011. The impact of feminism on sociology. *Sociological Research Online*, 16(3), pp. 158-168. doi: 10.5153/sro.2373
- Weinberg, D. 2008. "The Philosophical Foundations of Constructionist Research," in J. A. Holstein and J. F. Gubrium (eds.), *The Handbook of Constructionist Research*. New York: Guilford.

**Course No.: SOC - 402**  
**SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS**

**Course Description**

This course introduces students to the key aspects of research methodology in sociology, focusing on the philosophical foundations of social science research, core debates in research methodology, strategies for fieldwork, and emerging paradigms. The course is designed to equip students with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills to conduct rigorous sociological research.

**Course Objectives**

- To familiarize students with the philosophical underpinnings of social science research.
- To engage students in critical debates surrounding research methodology.
- To train students in identifying and locating fields for sociological research.
- To introduce new paradigms and approaches to research in contemporary sociology.

**Course Outline**

**Unit I: Philosophical Foundations of Social Science Research**

- a) Epistemology and Ontology: Positivism, Interpretivism, Critical Realism, and Constructivism
- b) Karl Popper: falsification, critique of historicism and holism
- c) Thomas Kuhn: paradigm and paradigm shift, progression of knowledge
- d) Paul Feyerabend: Methodological anarchism

**Unit II: Formulation of research proposal**

- a) Identification and statement of research problem
- b) Research Questions and Testing Hypotheses
- c) Literature Review
- d) Sampling Techniques

**Unit-III: Locating the Field and Fieldwork in Sociology**

- a) Defining the field: Theoretical and methodological considerations
- b) Different fields and fieldworker roles
- c) Entering the Field
- d) Insider vs outsider perspectives in fieldwork

**Unit IV: Contemporary Challenges in Social Research**

- a) Managing Subjectivity and Prejudice
- b) Data Reliability and Validity
- c) Navigating Cultural and Language Barriers
- d) Generalisation vs Context specific Findings

**Unit V: Report Writing**

- (a) Data processing and distribution
- (b) Data analysis and interpretation
- (c) Layout of the thesis
- (d) Citation, References/Bibliography

### **Suggested Readings:**

- Ahuja, Ram; 2009; *Research Methods*; Jaipur; Rawat Publications.
- Alexander, Jeffrey C, Positivism: Presuppositions and Current Controversies
- Arrow, Kenneth, 'Methodological Individualism and Social Knowledge, The American Economic Review, vol. 84, issue 2, 1994
- Bailey, Kenneth D.; 1978; *Methods of Social Research*; New York; The Free Press.
- Barnes, John A.; 1979; *Who Should Know What? Social Science, Privacy and Ethics*;
- Berger, P., & Luckman, T. (1966): *The Social Construction of Reality*.
- Beteille, A. & T.N. Madan; 1975; *Encounter and Experience: Personal Accounts of Fieldwork*; New Delhi; Vikas Publishing House.
- Bickman, Leonard, Pertti Asaswetari and Julia Brannen (eds.), 2008, *Sage Handbook of Social Research*, Sage Publications, London.
- Black, J.A. and D.J. Champion; 1976; *Methods and Issues in Social Research*; New York; John Wiley.
- Blalock, H.; 1960; *Social Statistics*; New York; McGraw Hill.
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- Bryman, Alan; 1988; *Quality and Quantity in Social Research*; London; Unwin Hyman.
- Burton, Dawn (Ed.); 2000; *Research Training for Social Scientists*; New Delhi; Sage.
- Chernilo, Daniel, 'Social Theory's Methodological Nationalism: Myth and Reality', *European Journal of Social Theory*, 9(1), 2006, pp. 5-22.
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- Goldthorpe, John H.; 2000; *On Sociology: Numbers, Narratives and the Integration of Research and Theory*; Oxford; Oxford University Press.
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- Hall, J.R. (1990). *Epistemology and Sociohistorical Inquiry*. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2083273> .Accessed: 14/08/2012 04:44
- Harding, S. (1986). *The Science Question in Feminism*. Cornell University Press.
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- Punch, Keith F; 2005; *Introduction to Social Research: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches (Second Edition)*; New Delhi; Sage Publications.
- Ridley, Diana, 2008, *The Literature Review: A Step-by-Step Guide for Students*, Sage Publications, London.
- Rosaldo, Renato; 1991; *Culture and Truth: The Remaking of Social Analysis*; Boston; Beacon Press.
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- Thanasegaran, G Reliability and validity issues in research Retrieved from <http://aupc.info/wp-content/uploads/35-40-ganesh.pdf> Theory of knowledge. Retrieved from <http://www.theoryofknowledge.info/what-is-knowledge/17/07/2016>
- Udeh, Lars, *Methodological Individualism: Background, history and meaning*
- Uwe, F. (2009). *An introduction to qualitative Research* (Fourth edition Sage). London: SAGE Publications India Pvt. Ltd. pp. 74-86
- Yin, R.K.; 1984; *Case Study Research: Design and Methods*; Beverly Hills, California; Sage.
- Young, Pauline V; 1996; *Scientific Social Surveys and Research (Fourth Edition)*; New Delhi; Prentice-Hall of India Pvt. Ltd.

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**Course No.: SOC - 403**  
**RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION ETHICS**

**Course objectives:**

This course's goal is to get students to read, comprehend, and debate about the appropriate code of behavior for multidisciplinary scientific research. The following are some specific learning objectives regarding research ethics:

- To be aware of the laws, concerns, choices, and resources related to research ethics.
- To become acquainted with the criteria for academic integrity and various institutional ethics review bodies.
- To comprehend the significance and worth of making moral decisions
- To be open to learning more about research ethics in the future.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the subject students who complete this course will be able to;

- Support the students' autonomous critical analysis of research ethics and philosophy.
- Discover how to oversee and assess a research project from the very beginning when determining moral guidelines to the work's ultimate publication.
- Discuss how new technology and social trends affect research ethics and share their thoughts about how to restructure the rules of conduct that are required to govern transdisciplinary research activities to regulate multidisciplinary research activity.
- Critical debate on research philosophy and ethics, students will inevitably get an understanding of the significance of scientific integrity in academic research. Expands the potential for long-term scientific excellence in their subsequent work.

**Course outline:**

**Unit 1: Philosophy and Ethics**

- (a) Introduction to Philosophy: Definition, Nature and Scope, Concept and Branches
- (b) Ethics: Definition, Moral Philosophy, Nature of Moral Judgment and Reactions

**Unit 2: Scientific Conduct**

- (a) Ethics and Social Science Research
- (b) Intellectual Honesty and Research Integrity
- (c) Selective Reporting and Misrepresentation of Data

**Unit 3: Research and Publication Ethics**

- (a) Publication Ethics: Definition and Importance
- (b) Best Practices and Guideline: COPE, WAME
- (c) Predatory Publisher and Journal

**Unit 4: Publication Misconduct**

- (a) Data Manipulation and Research Fraud: Falsification, Fabrication and Plagiarism (FFP)
- (b) Simultaneous Submission
- (c) Salami Slicing
- (d) Complaints and Appeals

**Unit 5: Databases and Software**

- (a) Anti-Plagiarism software tools: Ouriginal, Turnitin
- (b) Software to Identify Predatory Journals: SPPU, UGC-Care List
- (c) Reference Management tools: Mendeley, End Note
- (d) Citation Database: Web of Science, Scopus
- (e) Impact Factor

**Suggested Readings:**

- Donna M. Mertens, Pauline E. Ginsberg, SAGE (2009). The Handbook of Social Research Ethics.
- Rose Wiles, Bloomsbury (2013). What are Qualitative Research Ethics?
- Robin Levin Penslar, eds, Indiana University Press (1995). Research Ethics: Cases and Materials,.
- Gary Comstock, Cambridge University Press (2013). Research Ethics: A Philosophical Guide to the Responsible Conduct of Research,
- David Koepsell, Springer (2017). Scientific Integrity and Research Ethics: An Approach from the Ethos of Science.
- An Introduction to Ethical, Safety and Intellectual Property Rights Issues, Padma Nambisan, Elsevier (2017).
- Bird, A. (2006). Philosophy of Sciences. Routledge
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- P.Chandah. (2018). Ethics in Competitive Research: Do not get Scooped; do not get plagiarized.

**Course No.: SOC - 404**  
**COMPUTER APPLICATION AND TERM PAPER**

**Course Objectives:**

This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts and practical applications of computer technology in the field of sociology. It covers various computational methods and tools used for data collection, analysis, and visualization in sociological research-. The course's main objectives are to familiarize students with computer-based research methodologies in sociology and provide them with the opportunity to engage in independent research and produce a substantial term paper on a topic of their choice within the field of sociology. Through guided supervision and feedback, students will develop their research skills, critical thinking abilities, and academic writing proficiency.

**Course Learning Outcome:**

- It will enable students to critically evaluate and apply computational tools and techniques in sociological research.
- It will develop practical skills in data management, analysis, and visualization using computer software.
- It will inculcate interdisciplinary thinking and collaboration between sociology and computer science.
- It will develop students' ability to formulate a research question or hypothesis relevant to sociological inquiry.
- It will develop students' skills in conducting comprehensive literature reviews and synthesizing existing research. It will also guide students through data collection, analysis, and interpretation and enhance their academic writing skills and ability to effectively communicate research findings.

**Course Outline:**

**Unit 1: Introduction to Computer Applications in Sociology**

- a) Overview of the role of computers in sociological research
- b) Historical perspective and evolution of computational methods in sociology
- c) Data Collection Methods using computers: Survey design and implementation using online platforms, Web scraping techniques for collecting data from online sources,
- d) Data Analysis Techniques: Introduction to statistical software (e.g., SPSS, R), Descriptive and inferential statistics, thematic coding

**Unit 2: Data Visualization**

- a) Principles of effective data visualization
- b) Tools for creating visual representations of sociological data (e.g., Tableau, ggplot2)
- c) Interactive visualization techniques.

**Unit 3: Introduction to Term Paper**

- a) Topic Selection and Proposal Development: Overview of the term paper requirements and expectations, guidance on selecting a research topic and formulating a research question or hypothesis, drafting and refining the research proposal.
- b) Literature Review: Introduction to conducting a literature review in sociology, identifying relevant sources and scholarly literature, synthesizing existing research and identifying gaps in the literature
- c) Methodology: Discussion of research methodologies and data collection techniques in sociology, selection of appropriate research methods for the chosen topic, Development of a research design and data collection plan.

**Unit 4: Writing and Revision of Term Paper**

- a) Academic writing principles and strategies
- b) Drafting and revising the introduction, literature review, methodology, and conclusion sections
- c) Peer review and feedback sessions

**Suggested Reading**

- Robert A. Hanneman and Mark Riddle "Computational Sociology: An Introduction to Computer-Based Social Science"
- Mark C. Wilkinson and Bertram C. Bruce "Data Science for Social Scientists"
- Howard S. Becker "Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article"
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams "The Craft of Research"
- Lip Schultz M.M and S.Lip, Schultz (1982), Theory and Problems of Data Processing, Schum's Outline Series, McGraw Hill, New York.
- Levin, R.I, and C.A Kirkpatrick (1975), Quantitative Approaches to management, McGraw hill.
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